

# OneStar Foundation, Inc.

# Organization Description

The OneStar Foundation is a nonprofit corporation, established by Executive Order of the Governor of Texas, to work on behalf of the State of Texas to strengthen the capacity of local communities to address their most pressing needs. OneStar uses three primary strategies to achieve its mission: promoting an ethic of service and volunteerism, forging effective public and private partnerships, and increasing the performance of non-profit organizations. OneStar initiatives include the Governor's Faith-Based and Community Initiative, Governor's Mentoring Initiative, National Service Initiative, Emergency Management Initiative, and Volunteer Services Initiative.

#### Project Description

The Texas Demonstration Project seeks to build the capacity of faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) so they can increase the scale and effectiveness of their services in their respective communities, form strategic partnerships and collaborations to better serve those in need as well as to increase their access to Federal and other resources.

# Geographic Scope of Project

Bexar County (San Antonio); Harris County (Houston); Tarrant County (Ft. Worth); and Travis County (Austin), Texas.

# Partnering Organizations

- Cornerstone Assistance Network of Tarrant County
- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- The Urban Alternative
- Baylor University's Center for Religious Inquiry Across the Disciplines
- Venture CD

# Sub-Awards

OneStar anticipates offering subawards in three tiers--up to\$10,000, from \$10,000 to \$20,000, and from \$20,001 to \$30,000--to organizations with operating budgets of less than \$500,000 a year. Applicants for capacity-building sub-awards must attend a minimum of four of the six training workshops offered in their area. An estimated ten FBCOs in each targeted area will receive subawards which can be used to build their capacity in the five identified critical areas of capacity-building.

### **Priority Areas**

Homeless, prisoners reentering the community, children of prisoners, at-risk youth, persons suffering from chemical dependency, elders in need, families in transition from welfare to work, couples choosing marriage education, groups assisting at-risk youth to overcome the perilous risk of gang influence and involvement.

# Project Objectives

1. Build the capacity of 40 subawardees through training, technical assistance and finanPROJECT DIRECTOR:
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cial assistance in the five critical capacity areas.

- 2. Build the capacity of all interested faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) through training and technical assistance in targeted communities in five critical capacity areas. Target: Minimum of 300 FBCOs will attend at least one training workshop.
- 3. Forge 10 strategic partnerships between FBCOs and government including public schools and state agencies as demonstrated by a memorandum of understanding or similar agreement.
- 4. Gather critical data through a series of case studies to better understand how to build and sustain the capacity in FBCOs.



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### Project Strategies

The OneStar Foundation will launch its Texas Demonstration Project in each of the four target communities with a community-wide capacitybuilding symposium. The training symposia will be followed by a series of five training workshops held once a month in each targeted area. Sub-awards will be announced in month six after the conclusion of the training workshops. Sub-awardees will receive customized technical assistance, including the facilitation of the McKinsey Organizational Assessment Tool and the creation of an individualized Technical Assistance Work Plan. Participating organizations will be assisted in the completion of a "post-project" operational plan to sustain and continue measuring the impact of their award.

#### **Project Outcomes**

- 70% of grantees report "noticeable" or greater improvement in a minimum of two of five capacity areas as demonstrated by survey instrument.
- 70% of workshop attendees will report an increase in knowledge and understanding of the capacity area topic they received and report on how the knowledge impacted their organization in the particular area as defined by survey instrument.
- Seven out of the ten new partnerships will demonstrate a measurable leveraging of resources to better serve those in need.
- Based on the experiences of subawardees, faith and communitybased intermediaries around the country will learn from published case studies on building and sustaining capacity in FBCOs.

Grant Award Amount

\$1,100,000